

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1892.

The Legislature—Its Term of Office—A Convention of the People.

If anything definite has been determined upon by the Radical party in reference to the term of office of the Legislature it has not yet officially transpired. It has, indeed, been said that at a private caucus of the Radical members of the General Assembly it was decided to hold over until 1872. It is said, also, that the opinions of the gentlemen who constitute the Supreme Court have been ascertained, and that a majority of the Court are of opinion that the Constitution intended the members now in office to continue in office until 1872. We cannot, of course, vouch for the accuracy of either of these statements, not having been at the caucus and not having "seen" any member of the Court. It is true that Senator Sweet, who introduced the resolution referring the question to the Supreme Court is a Republican, but it is true, also, that he declared he would not hold over, as he would not consent to be a party to such a wanton usurpation of power. Straws are said to show which way the wind blows, and upon this point it is possible a few extracts from the *Standard*, of the 24th, may throw some light. We quote from an article entitled "Party Discipline":

"Let each man scan the record of our representatives, read the debates in the Legislature, and deny if he can that while the opposition are united the Republicans are divided, and that apparently the party is disorganized. We sound the alarm. It is no hour for soft words or sweet phrases. And it is no time to daily with men who have forgotten their pledges to the people and to the party."

"If any man is disposed to ignore the existence of the Republican party, who owes his advancement to that organization, let him raise his hand against it. Let him rise no more. Down with the disorganizer! Down with the croaker! Down with all sore-heads and whippers."

"We learn that many members of the party are disposed to ignore the decision of caucuses, or, in other words, to break through the party government. Gentlemen, we tell you to beware. "But we will not, on this or any other occasion, deal with this question with excited anger, engaged in kid gloves."

Whether this be the question upon which Radicals are disposed to ignore the decision of the caucuses we cannot say. We feel sure, however, that it must have been a very flagrant party offence to have called forth so unsparring a use of the party lash at the hands of the "official organ." If Senator Sweet be indeed the unfortunate individual threatened with such dire punishment, he is the more to be pitied, for the reason that he has once before, if we are not mistaken, fallen under the ban of his party. We trust, however, that he will do his duty regardless of every consideration save the honor and welfare of North Carolina.

Certain Senators have announced their intention to resign and go before their constituents for re-election in case an attempt is made to hold over. With all due deference to these gentlemen, we do not see how this course will help matters if they return to the same body they left.

As soon as they return to their seats and shall have taken anew the oath of office there will be precisely the same obligation upon them to resign a second and an infinite number of times as there was to resign the first time. In other words, by their resignation and re-election they can convert into a legal legislature a body of men that constitute no legislature at all, and that, by its very assembling as a legislature, becomes guilty of one of the highest crimes known to the law of the land. If the individuals who now constitute the General Assembly of North Carolina should meet in the Capitol at Raleigh, after August 1870, and by virtue of their election in April 1868, claim and exercise the rights of members of the Legislature, they will be criminal legislators or they will be criminals liable to indictment and prosecution. If they be criminals acting in violation of the law, no man elected at a special election after August 1870, and who, on that account, may claim to have been elected to a lawful Legislature, can sit and act with them without becoming a party to the criminal proceedings.

We cannot see how a resignation from, and re-election and return to, this same Legislature, if it be an illegal assembly, can accomplish any good purpose.

As we have said before, we are of opinion that it properly belongs to the Courts to determine this question. We trust the Courts will consider it without reference to party interest or caucus dictation. In any event, we think there is as much hope of a fair and unbiased decision from the Supreme Court as from the Legislature. The Court will eventually have to decide the matter, for it is not to be expected that the plain letter of the Constitution can be disregarded without an appeal to the tribunal established to afford relief in just such cases. No case can come before the Court, however, until after the first Thursday in August 1870.

We are not sure, as we have before intimated, whether the Court will respond to the resolution of Senator Sweet by any expression of opinion. There is one precedent for complying with the request made in the resolution and one against such a course. The adverse precedent was made recently when this present Supreme Court refused to give expression to any opinion in reference to the Homestead question. The other precedent was established in 1849 by the old Supreme Court in giving an opinion upon certain questions propounded by the Senate in reference to the contested election between Messrs. BERRY and WADDELL from Orange. Chief Justice REYNOLDS, in communicating the opinion of the Judges, says:

"Although not strictly an act of official obligation, which could not be declined, yet from the nature of the questions and the purposes to which the answers are to be applied—being somewhat of a judicial character—the Judges have deemed it a duty of courtesy and respect to the Senate to consider the points submitted to them and to give their opinions thereon."

It is beyond dispute. We think it is also beyond dispute that there are Radicals who are looking to the future and who, realizing the fact that as sure as the sun shines North Carolinians will eventually rule North Carolina, and for her own good and not in the interest of any other State or section or people, are so shaping their course as to clear their skirts as much as possible from the mud and mire and filth and corruption that has accumulated upon them. One short year ago the most sanguine man in Tennessee had no hope that the day of deliverance was at hand. Then ninety thousand citizens were disfranchised and the government was in the hands of oppressors. Now the sovereign people are preparing to meet in Convention and Tennessee, "the Volunteer State," is herself again.

North Carolinians, too, will ere long meet in Convention, for the far-seeing Republicans will do here as they did in Tennessee and prepare for the approaching storm by yielding to the wishes of the people.

The Legislature and State Credit.

The publication of the proceedings of the Legislature may seem to some as a useless and extravagant waste of space. Too many are apt to regard their personal as an uninteresting and worthless consumption of time. But there is no citizen of the State, however humble and poor, who has not a vital interest in them. Every tax-payer, especially, should make himself thoroughly acquainted with what is being done for his relief or oppression. Every North Carolinian ought to know what is being done for the honor or humiliation of his State. Every voter should investigate in what manner his representative is performing his trust.

We do not believe that any one has read the proceedings of the Legislature, yet in the second week of the session, without mortification and alarm. No one can shut his eyes to the fact that every interest of the State is to be sacrificed to meet the demands of party. The people have a right to suppose that the credit of the State was a question of such paramount, such vital importance, that every personal and political interest must be made to yield to it. Certainly the continued success of the dominant party, and the State's interest in her works of internal improvement, if not the solvency of her citizens, are involved in maintaining the credit of the State.

Every sensible man knows that something more than the amount of our indebtedness and our inability to pay the maturing interest upon our old debt forces North Carolina bonds down to the bottom of the list. There is a terrible meaning in the fact that our "special tax" bonds only bring thirty-five cents on the dollar, and every day shows a decline. This does not indicate the true value of the credit of the State. God forbid that North Carolina credit should be judged by this standard. There is a want of confidence in the legality of these bonds. There is a want of confidence in the men who have the control of them. There is a want of confidence in the honesty and incorruptibility of our Courts, of our Executive. There is a want of confidence in everything done by our State government.

Conscious of the true condition of affairs, patriotic men, Senators in the General Assembly, Democrats and Republicans, took immediate steps to remedy the crying evils. Fraud and corruption had done its damming work, and its authors, promoters and agents, were basking in the false sunshine of their successful crimes. Speculators and thieves, in and out of the Legislature, were enjoying the fruits of their criminal labors. The honor and credit of the State cried aloud for relief and protection. The remedy was manifest and readily obtained. Three resolutions looking to the investigation of corruption in the disposal of the bonds issued in favor of the Western North Carolina Railroad were introduced and persistently pressed upon the Senate. Party curs, white and black, fed and unfed, some of them reeking in the corruptions charged, were hounded on by the "Ring Masters." The Governor and his corrupt agent, Littlefield, took position in the lobby, as if afraid of the proposed investigation, and whipped in their contumacious friends, and virtually killed one and all of the propositions. Senator Lassiter, a man once respected and honored, and who should now be above serving as the tool of such men, came to the relief of the thieves by proposing and having passed a resolution delaying all investigations until such time that the State will neither have a bond to dispose of, nor the credit to issue one. We refer to the published proceedings elsewhere.

Where, we ask, is the remedy? Does Governor Holden and his Legislature desire to force the people into repudiation? If Governor Holden be honest, and be not directly interested in the corruptions which are destroying the credit of the State, why does he make Littlefield the President of the Western North Carolina Railroad, and place in his hands millions of dollars of the bonds of the State, when it is said, upon apparently good authority, that this man has used three millions of dollars of these bonds in his corrupt Florida transactions? Why stands he in the lobby of the Senate in acknowledged cooperation and confidence with this more than suspected man, using his influence to defeat investigation into alleged corruptions? Why is he officially and socially associated with such men? Can it be possible that the rumors, may the open assertions upon the lips of everybody, that the Governor and the Supreme Court are in the pay of these men be true? We trust not. But the common belief is doing its work. The confidence of the people in their Courts and in their Executive is gone. They begin to look with suspicion upon those in whom confidence is the main spring of the government itself, and without which it becomes a mockery.

There must be a change. Investigations must be permitted and honestly forwarded. Criminals must be exposed and punished. Party discipline and party success cannot and must not stand in the way of the general welfare. Official and unofficial thieves must not longer trifle with the property of the State. The good name

of North Carolina, her credit and honor, must be protected, regardless of personal or political consequences.

The Southern University.

We publish this morning in another column a document containing an appeal in behalf of this institution, and in calling special attention to it, we desire to offer some hastily written thoughts in regard to the wants of the South in this matter of instruction in the higher grades of learning.

One of the saddest consequences of our melancholy fate since the war, is the entire loss to us of all of our own public schools and Colleges, few as they were. The Carolinians have seen their worst than destroyed, and the ebbing tide of blood carries away with it all traces of what the States farther South and West of us have been years in building and adorning, so that from the Virginia line to the Rio Grande there was not left standing one single institution worthy of support. Was there ever before, in the history of any enlightened people, such an intellectual waste. Not one oasis, not one cool spring of knowledge in all this, the fairest land of earth. No true Southern man can look with complacency upon such a spectacle; and thinking men almost sickened and turned away when they ask themselves the question, where are those who are soon to shape our destiny to get their intellectual food, at what fountains shall they drink? Virginia, to be sure, has saved her noble University; her Military Institute has been restored, and the great name of ROBERT LEE has elevated Washington College to the condition of an institute of the first class. But everybody sees that those schools are too far away from most of the Southern people; middle and poorer classes can never reach them, and in the present financial condition of the South who can call himself rich? Now let us examine this matter a little more closely.

We do not wish to write in bitterness; we do not wish to stir one touch of resentment, or to awake one revengeful thought. Matters of this sort should be lifted above strife, above the appeals of the partisan. But looking back over the terrible past, looking up to where our brothers in arms are at peace, we believe if we would hear their voices; if the noble army of our martyrs could speak to us from the shining lands it would be in some such language as this: The precious gift of our blood and lives has failed to free you from political slavery; it has failed to break the bonds that bound your bodies, but there is a freedom you yet may win. Grasp it, take it, never, never lose it, and even in all this your desolation, in the midst of all this, your darkness, in all the depths of your mighty sorrows we can say to you if you prize aright your opportunities now, we will not have died in vain. Although political, commercial, and in a measure, social necessities, require a close intercourse with the North, yet, intellectually, you may be free. Too many precious lives have been lost; too much blood has been spilt; too many sacrifices have been made to lose all. Wrest yourselves from your literary thralldom and you will be free. Build up your own places of learning, fill them with your own men, and your children will enter upon the duties of life free from the moral, social and intellectual corruption they would bring away from Northern schools and Northern society.

Any man who looks about him in the interest of morals and religion must see that there is something radically wrong, something rotten at the roots of the whole Northern system of education. Else how comes it that such creatures as Wendell Phillips, Thad. Stevens, Jno. W. Forney, Sumner, Beecher, Anna Dickinson, Ben Butler, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and even Grant—are exponents of the status of the people—not accidents merely—but representative men. How comes it that almost all of their reformed religious organizations are so corrupt that no Christian man south can stand on the same platform and pray to the same God. What Presbyterian south, of either school, can shake hands with his Northern brother? Which of the various branches of the Wesleyan Societies can harmonize with their Northern allies? What Southern Baptist would not throw cold water upon any attempt to establish fellowship with the North? One branch of the Church of God, to be sure, that for a while had a separate organization, has reunited in charity and cordially shaken hands, but that had been kept pure in ways that it is not necessary to mention here. How comes it, we say, that in morals and religion we are as distinct a people, as if a broad and trackless ocean flowed between us. Who does not see, what Christian philosopher does not know the because that every fountain whence their learning flows; that all their springs of knowledge, that almost every source of information is poisoned with rationalism and materialism, and that slavery of free-thinking which means only infidelity. It is just useless in a Southern community to debate these points. We have seen the effects, we have learned the cause. Are we to profit by the experience, or shall we permit ourselves to be led captive as of old times.

Let us say then in all earnestness, in all kindness, that the blood of our brothers will not have flowed in vain, our treasure will not have been thrown away, if now we only free ourselves from that intellectual bondage to which we willfully submitted all those years that are gone. And if we make up our minds to turn away from those waters that breed disease and death; if we dig the holy wells and plant the sacred groves for ourselves so that our youth may drink from healthful streams, and lie down in the shade where is a pure atmosphere, where—yes—where we may soon gather strength and power enough to dam off the noxious flood that rolls this way and in time pour back a tide of truth, pure and undefiled.

Now, this matter of education in the higher walks of learning is a question that we Southern people cannot afford to pass by. It states us in the face. The voices of our brothers who are gone are calling to us. "Let not such blood be shed in vain."

Our own senses tell us of our desolation, and the precious little ones who are just behind us in the race, show in their eager faces and shining eyes that they are thirsting, not for the poisoned streams, not for the stagnant pools, but for the fresh, pure springs of life hard by the Oracles of God.

Nor is this a matter in which we can afford to wait. The demands are pressing, and unless we can make provision for them our youth will soon begin again to stray off into other paths than our own. But experience teaches us that it is not so much separate State institutions that we need. Such must be fostered by political bounties, and because of the nature of our government, must have some political bias. What we want is some Institution independent of politics and demagogues, a representative of our own exceptional and peculiar civilization; some true exponent of Southern character and Southern sentiment: where our religion shall be moved beyond the touch of the Radical philosophy on the one hand and the political Parsonage on the other, and where our language shall be kept pure from the pollution of the freedman's tongue and the carpet-bagger's nose. We want a UNIVERSITY in the true sense of that word: to which the Southern man may look as the Frenchman does to Academie; as the Englishman does to Cambridge and Oxford, and as the Irishman to Trinity College.

Now let us ask how many Southern men know how many people in Wilmington know, that just such an institution as we need was projected and commenced before the war and is now languishing for means to supply pressing demands? How many people know that on the Sewanee Mountain yonder, with an endowment of ten thousand acres of land and four hundred thousand dollars, in the month of October, 1860, was laid the corner stone of a University of the South.

In a small pamphlet before us written by Rev. O. P. Thacker, we have a history of the progress and present situation and wants of that Institution, and to-night at St. James' Church that gentlemanly proposition to give to the people of Wilmington all the information he possesses in regard to the matter, and then he will make personal application for assistance. This is an object that should commend itself to every Southern heart. Not only for its own merits, but only because it answers the present demand of our people, but because it bears the real and sign manual of one of the noblest martyrs in our lost cause. It is the favorite child of one of our Christian heroes who gave his life for our freedom. For before he laid down his Episcopal robes, before the Bishop of the Church of God took up the sword in defense of right and justice Leonidas Polk had laid the foundation of this splendid monument of his own brain, and so it comes to us with his own seal upon its corner stone.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., Nov. 20, 1892.
Dear Journal.—The cost of the surveys made by the Government since 1844, with a view to laying out a proposed route for a Pacific Railroad, have been \$8,000,000. Quite an item to be added to the fiscal cost of the railroad.

It is stated on good authority that the President will recommend in his annual message the early construction of the Darien Canal across the Isthmus of Panama.

With regard to the appointments of the nine Judges to be made, nothing has been determined upon. It is rumored that Justice Grier will soon resign and that the two vacancies on the Supreme bench will be filled at the same time. Attorney General Hoar will, no doubt, be one of them. I opine with regard to Justice Grier that the wish is father to the rumor.

The Sub-Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives will meet here next week to hear new evidence and to make up their report in the impeachment case of Richard Busted, United States District Judge for Alabama. If the Committee decide to report in favor of his impeachment, it will take a long time to try the case, judging from the fact that the investigation has already taken two years. The principal charges against Busted were ignorance of the law and corruption in office. Busted is a "carpet-bagger" from New York City, and is a fair specimen of his kind. If the charges named above are sufficiently serious to impeach a "truly loil leaguer" of the Busted order, hanging would be a light punishment for three-fourths of the vile scum that were spewed out from the North during the war, and who held place and position in the South upheld by force and fraud. Busted is too "loil" to suffer much.

A letter from Georgia received here states that Senator Cameron and Commissioner Delano and about thirty others, mostly Pennsylvania politicians, propose to travel over Southern Georgia to discover from personal observation the condition of that country, politically and otherwise, which they will present to Congress in connection with the question of admitting the Georgia Senators and Representatives. This extreme solicitude on the part of Cameron and Delano has reference to some political purpose which at present I am unable to determine. Mr. Christopher Columbus Delano, who would dearly like to be Senator, had better leave the Georgia Senators alone, and attend to the duties of Commissioner of Internal Revenue, which he is paid for doing. Besides, he is wanted here to decide the question as to who shall step into the shoes of Mr. Hedges, late Supervisor for the Northern District of Ohio. There are over fifty applicants for the position, and to make one political friend Delano must perform more fifty or more political enemies, which every disappointed applicant will be, of course; and all of which is good for Senator Sherman and bad for Delano, who has a long fight for John's seat in the Senate.

General Tate, the Haytian Minister, was presented to the President on Monday, and the reply of the President no doubt brought joy to the heart of Wendell Phillips, Lloyd Garrison and Charles Sumner. He certainly has been educated up to their place.

Blacks and whites in the same public schools as a basis for a "mingling of the races" certainly must follow, as a part of the principles of Radicalism, the avowals

made by his Highness in the subjoined extracts. The President spoke his piece and said: "General, if any proof were wanting of the unbounded character of the prejudice which, until recently, pervaded at least parts of this country, against the race from which you are sprung, it might be found in the high tone and polished style of the remarks which you have just uttered." President's statement, however, have neglected no fit opportunity for sanctioning and securing by law those privileges for your kinsmen which have been the inevitable and natural result of our great civil convulsion. Among them is their right to employment abroad as well as at home, in the public service—a right which, as you say, has been acknowledged by the appointment of one of the formerly proscribed race to represent the United States in Hayti. I congratulate myself on this occasion to render homage to the change of public sentiment adverted to by receiving you, as I cordially do, as the first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from that Republic."

It would seem from the above that the 15th amendment is looked upon, by the writer of Grant's speech, as certain to become a part of the constitution and the President was selected to make a heavy bid for the negro vote. The proper appeal was made to Sambo, his love of ease and the "good things" of this life were touched upon when office for him was mentioned. The "late lamented" Abraham had the negro out of bondage, and now, the never-to-be-forgotten promises them oil, corn and honey. On the negro business Ulysses is ahead considerably, but Sumner having worn the subject through has given it up to ride the Chinese hobby, and will not object to General Grant's using his thunder occasionally.

A Committee of the Virginia Legislature is to meet in Washington on December 10th for the purpose of urging the readmission of Virginia. It is thought that this is a State of the Union, after having complied with all the requirements of the reconstruction law, acting in good faith in every particular, stooping so low as to consult the wishes of those in power in their every action, fearing to offend, selecting Senators not at all objectionable, must come to Washington and lobby as though they were despised of passing a law that was a speculation and a fraud? Is this what is expected of sovereign States? Must they beg and barter with Senators and Representatives or lobbyists in order to get a recognition of their rights as a State? Is some juggle premeditated by which the State of Virginia is to be kept under the rule of the sword and bayonet until further humbled in the dirt? We expect no less from our tyrants.

Mr. Brewster, who interviewed the President yesterday, is it thought that he will be appointed one of the new Circuit Judges. Anything to keep him quiet and to prevent him wandering about the country. But won't Ben be a "ditty" one to dispense law. He is a "played out" fossil and should be shelved somewhere.

Correspondence.

JACKSONVILLE, Oronow County, N. C., June 14th, 1892.
Dr. E. PORTER, Rocky Point, N. C.

Dear Sir:—I am, the undersigned, citizen of Jacksonville and the county of Oronow, having invariably observed the high-toned, gentlemanly and unimpeachable character of one whom you dealt, and so often witnessed your more than ordinary skill as a practicing Physician, and in fact, your almost supernatural power in such practice, desire to present to you this, our petition, wishing to set forth first a testimonial of the high regard we have for you personally, and secondly requesting you to return to the county of Oronow, and reside in the town of Jacksonville, or some other part of the county, and devote your time (when not necessarily engaged in your domestic affairs) to the practice of medicine, at least from the 15th of July, or the 1st of August, 20th of October next, during the most sickly season.

(The long list of signatures, names and addresses, are withheld for want of space, being entirely too lengthy for publication.)

JACKSONVILLE, Oronow County, N. C., June 14th, 1892.

Dr. E. PORTER, Rocky Point, N. C.
Dear Sir:—Enclosed herewith please find a petition directed to you, signed by your correspondents and a large number of prominent citizens, (dadies and gentlemen) of Oronow county, respectfully soliciting your professional services in the county of Oronow, and in fact, your almost supernatural power in such practice, desire to present to you this, our petition, wishing to set forth first a testimonial of the high regard we have for you personally, and secondly requesting you to return to the county of Oronow, and reside in the town of Jacksonville, or some other part of the county, and devote your time (when not necessarily engaged in your domestic affairs) to the practice of medicine, at least from the 15th of July, or the 1st of August, 20th of October next, during the most sickly season.

Your obedient servants,
GEO. R. WARD,
STEPHEN DIXON,
R. F. PELLETIER, Secy.
MAZER RUSSELL,
Z. M. COSTON.

ROCKY POINT, N. C., August 19th, 1892.
Messrs. G. R. WARD, STEPHEN DIXON, R. F. PELLETIER, MAZER RUSSELL and Z. M. COSTON, Dear Sirs:—Your letter of the 10th inst., written in behalf of, and enclosing a petition signed by a large number of the prominent citizens of Oronow county, and in fact, your almost supernatural power in such practice, desire to present to you this, our petition, wishing to set forth first a testimonial of the high regard we have for you personally, and secondly requesting you to return to the county of Oronow, and reside in the town of Jacksonville, or some other part of the county, and devote your time (when not necessarily engaged in your domestic affairs) to the practice of medicine, at least from the 15th of July, or the 1st of August, 20th of October next, during the most sickly season.

I am, gentlemen, your friend and obedient servant,
E. PORTER, M. D.
dewit

ROBERT C. KERO.—There is no such corruption going on that it would take "two papers, both daily," to name, denounce and keep up with it. We asked, months ago, who Robert C. Kero was; we know this much, he is a carpet-bagger; living in Newbern. He filed an injunction against the Atlantic and Ohio Railroad Company. Dewees, our member of Congress, is thought to have had such a bill in contemplation of the purpose of leaving back mail of that corporation. Judge Watts granted the injunction, and then dissolved it. Did anybody make money by the operation?

We expect to ventilate this injunction affair, the Plaintiff, the Judge, Dewees and the whole of it.

We shall also inquire if Judge Watts has any State bonds for sale.

Rail. Sentinel.

In the Superior Court Thursday, Chas. Rea, a negro boy 18 years of age, was found guilty of an assault with intent to commit a rape on the person of Elizabeth Petty, a white girl thirteen years of age, and the daughter of Jacob Petty, the miller of Fox's mill, five or six miles from this place. The jury recommended the prisoner to the mercy of the Court, and his Honor suspended judgment for the present.—Charlotte Observer.

Tennessee has seventeen thousand Free Masons.

Jefferson Davis.

A Four Days' Journey with the Confederate Chief—How he Looked and What he Said—His Alleged Complicity in the Assassination Plot—His Travels and Probable Fate.

From the Cincinnati Commercial.

A ride from New Orleans up the Mississippi in that royal craft, the Great Republic, gave me an opportunity of becoming acquainted with Mr. Jefferson Davis. He came aboard at Vicksburg, and proceeded as far as Memphis, and then, on account of the leakage of one of the boilers, and a delay at the mouth of White river, the journey was prolonged for four days.

At Greenville, Mississippi, where the boat arrived on Sunday last, the news spread that "President Davis" was on board, and a crowd of nearly one hundred persons eagerly rushed to the cabin to have a look, or, more fortunately, to get a shake of the hand from their former chief. The same thing was repeated when the boat stopped at Helena, Arkansas. It was there that I first saw him, and he played as much interest and enthusiasm as the white people, and seemed equally gratified to get a few kindly words from the man about whom such extraordinary associations clustered.

MR. DAVIS'S PERSONNEL.

I had not before seen Mr. Davis. I had pictured him as tall, bony and cadaverous. All the engaging and agreeable qualities to the public made these characteristics more prominent than his real appearance justifies. His height is a little, if any, above the average. His face is well shaped, with regular features, his nose being neither so prominent nor so emphasized a Roman as is usually conveyed by his photographs. The lower part of his face is small, not indicating the pushing, aggressive, or bull-like qualities often noticeable in the contestants of the political arena, but, on the contrary, indicating a delicate organization, an amiable disposition and a general air of gentleness. His eyes are blue, and, notwithstanding that the left eye is defective and almost visionless, add to the mildness of his face. His hair is quite gray, as are his thin whiskers and beard, and his manner, which is exceedingly short, is almost wholly devoid of tones of his voice are pleasant, and his speech is deliberate and measured—a quality seldom possessed by one who is not a natural or trained orator. In some important respects, especially in the tones of his voice, his manner and his general appearance, he is a more correct counterpart of Judge Fay, of this city, save that he is fully ten years younger than the judge.

Mr. Davis's manner is exceedingly quiet and unobtrusive. He does not appear to seek notoriety, but rather to avoid it, and the attention paid him were received in a unobtrusive way as they might be were he a well-bred country gentleman, instead of having been the political head and front of the most memorable civil convulsion the world has yet witnessed. He is a man who would have been forced into the position of factious prominence, the quality that makes and marks a leader, among men, sometimes called "personality," "individuality," "character"—that something which impresses the mind into the mood of his mind and carries you along with him, and which does not possess. Mr. Davis's health has greatly improved since his release from confinement. His friends who saw him during the troubled and anxious times of 1862, 1863 and 1864 expressed their surprise and gratification at the marked improvement in his appearance and general health.

MR. DAVIS AND THE ASSASSINATION PLOT.

The four days' travel on board the Great Republic gave me the opportunity of ascertaining Mr. Davis about certain matters connected with the rebellion of which the true history has yet to be written, and not least among them, his alleged complicity in the plot to assassinate President Lincoln. Mr. Davis, owing to the closeness of his confinement at Fort Monroe, and his subsequent travels, he had not even read what had been alleged against him. The testimony sworn to at the trial of the conspirators before the military commission at Washington, and which is still credited to Davis as the work of persons at the North, is, in brief, as follows:

Testimony of Lewis T. Bates, a witness for the prosecution, May 30, 1865, as published in the official report: "I reside in Charlotte, North Carolina, where I have resided a little over twenty years. I am superintendent of the Southern Express Company for the State of North Carolina. I am a native of Massachusetts. On the 12th of April Jefferson Davis stopped at my house in Charlotte, where he made an address to the people from the steps of his house. While speaking a telegram from John C. Breckinridge was handed to him. The following telegram was handed to the commission:

GREENSBORO, April 19, 1865.

His Excellency, President Davis:—The President of the theatre of Washington on the night of the 14th instant, Seward's house was entered on the same night, and he was repeatedly stabbed, and is probably mortally wounded."

John C. Breckinridge, in his speech before the military commission at Washington, made the following statement: "It is better to be better that it were well done. I am quite sure these are the words he used. A day or two after Jefferson Davis and John C. Breckinridge were present at my house, when the assassination of the President was the subject of conversation. In speaking of it, John C. Breckinridge remarked to Mr. Davis that he regretted it very much; that it was unfortunate for the people of the South at that time. Davis replied: 'Well, General, I don't know; if it were to be done at all, it would be better that it were well done, and if the same had been done to Andy Johnson, the best, and to Secretary Stanton, the job would then be complete.'

No other witnesses testified to these assertions, though five witnesses were called in support of the personal character and reliability of this testimony. I reported the main points of this testimony to Mr. Davis and, in his quiet and habitually unobtrusive manner, he pronounced the whole thing an entire and absolute falsehood.

PRESIDENT DAVIS IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

Mr. Davis's conversation giving some retrospect of his travels in Great Britain was deeply interesting. Like every educated American, whose ideal associations are not from the past, are derived from books, he seemed to have intensely enjoyed his visits to the cathedrals and the ruins of monasteries and abbeys, which carried him back to the days of early Christian civilization. His reception in Scotland he spoke of as particularly cordial and his visits to different points of interest there as affording him his greatest gratification. The account of his visit to the Giant's Causeway, Staffa, and more especially that to the Island of Iona, he narrated with much enthusiasm. Iona is a little rocky island which lies a few miles off the coast of Scotland, and is a curious basaltic columns and cathedral-like caverns, but now desolate and barren—here pictured as it once existed, the seat of learning and piety, and the point whence Christianity is said to have spread over the whole of Great Britain. He visited the memorials of his glory, his ruined monasteries, crosses, and the tombs of saints and ancient kings, and

spoke with intellectual reverence of the pleasure it afforded him to stand beside the graves of Duncan and Macbeth.

MR. DAVIS'S FUTURE.

I understand it to be Mr. Davis's intention in due time to give to the world his version of the political affairs in which he so prominently figured. He will employ a photographic amanuensis to facilitate his labors, and as he has already accumulated a goodly store of materials, it is probable that his work will not be long delayed. Mr. Davis is blacked for many things respecting his own defense. I know he is censured by many in the South for the prosecution of the war. I have again and again heard it said by Southerners that, after the battle of Gettysburg General Lee urged measures of compromise to the end of obtaining peace, which Mr. Davis persistently opposed. The family of Mr. Davis is still in England. Of his own future, he did not speak positively. His friends here believe that the United States will be his home, and that he will not return to Europe, or to bring home Mrs. Davis and his children.

THAT HOMICIDE CASE—THE CORONER'S INVESTIGATION—EVIDENCE OF THE WITNESSES.—Coroner Allen and the jury of the quest summoned by him over the body of Sandy Sykes, the colored man who is an affray at Point Peter with Baechus Quince (colored) on Tuesday last, did not conclude their investigation until yesterday noon, having simply adjourned over until the next morning, after finding it impossible to complete their labors Wednesday evening. The following statements of Mr. W. F. Potter and Dr. E. A. Anderson, the two principal witnesses examined, throw some light on the case:

Wm. F. Potter sworn.—I knew the deceased, being working on the plantation of and on the last two (2) years. Saw him alive on the 24th of October, 1892. He was a colored man, about 35 years of age, and was a native of the plantation. While I was there, heard him talking and came out from behind a fence and Sandy quarreling. I heard no words, but saw that they were settling. I called to some of the hands to part them, which was done. I saw Sandy hit a piece of iron of Baechus Quince, and then he ran into the room; while I was in there, they commenced quarreling again. Sandy Sykes ran into the room and took a stick. Baechus followed him into the room, fighting, and picked up a stick and struck him (Sykes). He was close to him when he struck him. He had the stick in both hands, and the stick was more of a shove and a blow. The deceased was a man belted by all the hands on the plantation, and of an amiable disposition and the other (Baechus) is a kind-hearted and well-disposed, but passionate. I saw the deceased about 35 years of age, and he was dead.

Dr. E. A. Anderson sworn.—I was called to see Sandy Sykes, and arrived at the point at 12 M. on the morning of the 23d—found Sandy Sykes on the floor with a very weak and feeble pulse, efforts breathing, great rattling in the throat, and a small amount of mucus on the floor. He was not larger than a boy, and his hands and feet cold, and rapidly growing colder. On examining right temple (front) swelling as if blood was collected under the skin. Could not detect any fracture of the upper part of the skull by feeling, but saw a dermoid that blood flowed freely from the wound and nose was swollen that the time of the blow was fractured, and probably sharp splinters of bone driven into the brain, which was subsequently found to be the case after post mortem examination. Remained with Sykes two hours trying to bring on a reaction by heat and stimulants, as he could not swallow, but to no purpose. Left at 2 P. M. and stated that he would die that evening, which at 4 P. M., Wednesday, the 24th, at 4 P. M., he died.

When summoned by the Coroner and ordered to make a post mortem examination, I proceeded to do so at once, and found the following injury: Upon cutting into the scalp, over the seat of the blow, found a coagulum of blood some three (3) inches in diameter and one inch thick, but no fracture of the outer plate of the skull. Upon removing the skull-plate, found a fracture of the inner plate of the skull on the right side of the head under the seat of the blow, a very large clot